

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. UG-041515
TRANSPORATION COMMISSION.)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
v.)	CONFERENCE
)	(Set for September 23, 2004
AVISTA CORPORATION, d/b/a)	at 1:30 p.m.)
AVISTA UTILITIES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

- 1 On August 20, 2004, the respondent, Avista Corporation, filed with the Commission a request seeking Commission authorization to increase its rates and charges for its natural gas service to natural gas customers in the state of Washington. With this filing, the Company requests an overall general rate increase of 6.2% or \$8.6 million, to be implemented at the end of the general rate case proceedings.

- 2 The Commission will hear this matter pursuant to Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW pertaining to adjudicative proceedings, including but not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, RCW 34.05.452, and RCW 34.05.455. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 80 RCW, having legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of natural gas companies. Statutes involved, in addition to those previously cited, include those within chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04, and 80.28 RCW, and chapters 480-07, 480-80 and 480-90 WAC.

- 3 The ultimate issues include whether the proposed tariff revisions are just, fair, reasonable, sufficient, and in the public interest. In accordance with the provisions of RCW 80.04.130, because Avista is the proponent of the tariff change, the burden of proof shall be upon Avista, the respondent.

4 THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That in accordance with WAC 480-07-440(1)(a), the Commission has determined that good cause exists for this matter to be heard on shortened notice.

5 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That a prehearing conference in this matter will be held at 1:30 p.m., on September 23, 2004 in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

6 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to take interventions, establish dates for distribution of evidence and workpapers and other scheduling matters, consider formulating the issues in the proceeding and to determine other matters to aid in its disposition, as specified in WAC 480-07-430.

7 Petitions to intervene should be made in writing at least three business days prior to the date scheduled for the prehearing conference, as required in WAC 480-07-355(a). The Commission will consider petitions to intervene made orally during the conference, but strongly prefers written petitions to intervene. In addition, party representatives must file notices of appearance with the Commission, as required by WAC 480-07-345(2), no later than the day prior to the conference. If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, please fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The time and place for any evidentiary hearings will be set at the prehearing conference, on the record of a later conference or hearing session, or by later written notice.

8 Petitions to intervene must be made in writing at least five business days prior to the date of the prehearing conference, pursuant to WAC 480-07-355(a). In addition, notices of appearance must be filed with the Commission, as required by WAC 480-07-345(2), no later than the day prior to the conference. If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, please fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The time and place for the evidentiary hearings will be set at the prehearing conference or by later written notice.

9 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default in accordance with RCW 34.05.440. The parties are further advised that the sanction provisions of WAC 480-07-450 are specifically invoked.**

10 The names and mailing addresses of all parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant: Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1600

Representative: Gregory Trautman
Assistant Attorney General
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1187

Respondent: Avista Corporation
1411 East Mission
PO Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(509) 489-0500

Representatives: David J. Meyer, Esq.
Attorney at Law
1411 E. Mission Avenue
MSC-13
PO Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
(360) 495-4316

Public Counsel: Robert Cromwell
Assistant Attorney General
Public Counsel Section
900 – 4th Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 464-6595

- 11 The Commissioners of the WUTC and Administrative Law Judge C. Robert Wallis, from the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.
- 12 The Public Counsel section of the Office of the Attorney General has been designated by the Attorney General to represent the public. The address of the Commission, shown below, may be used for inquiries of Public Counsel, or Public Counsel may be contacted directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 13 Notice of any other procedural phase will be given in writing or on the record, as the Commission may deem appropriate during the course of this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 15th day of September, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

Inquiries may be address to:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Section
Office of the Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 464-7744

NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: The hearing facilities are accessible to interested people with disabilities; that smoking is prohibited; and if limited English-speaking or hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

The information needed to provide an appropriate interpreter or other assistance should be stated below and returned to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Carole J. Washburn, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket No.: _____

Case Name: _____

Hearing Date: _____ Hearing Location: _____

Primary Language: _____

Hearing Impaired (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual _____ Tactile _____

Other type of assistance needed: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____